

Maryland Numismatist



Coins that are the Cat's Meow



***MSNA Exhibit Competition at March Expo
Richard Doty to Speak in Baltimore in June***

Spring, 2013 Volume 41 – No. 1

**The
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State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



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President's Message

This winter has been an exciting one for Baltimore sports fans. Although the Ravens dispatched old rivals the Colts in the first round of the playoffs, further success seemed unlikely as it would require beating the two best quarterbacks in the game—Peyton Manning and Tom Brady—to get to the Super Bowl. Perhaps it was the bitter disappointment of losing the AFC Championship to the Patriots last year, or maybe it was the emotional lift of Ray Lewis' early return from injury in time to join in the playoffs, or this being his last ride. Whatever the reason, the Ravens would not be denied. How appropriate that it took a goal line stand by Ray Lewis and the defense on four successive plays in the waning minutes of the contest to preserve the win over the Forty-Niners in Super Bowl XLVII! It was good to see the national coverage for our area of the two rallies (one initiated by the Today Show) during the week before the game, and the parade afterward witnessed by 200,000 fans!



But I digress—back to numismatics. The February 2013 issue of *The Numismatist* featured an extensive article by Donald Kagin on the notes that helped to finance the War of 1812. That was the subject of Mr. Kagin's talk in the MSNA's Distinguished Lecturer Series last year.

February means that Bryce Doxzon is busy preparing to host the exhibits at the March Whitman Expo at the Convention Center. I invite those of you who will be attending the show to stop and view the exhibits—the exhibitors put a lot of time and effort into them. We are fortunate that the most accomplished of all exhibitors nationally is MSNA's own Treasurer and *Maryland Numismatist* Editor, Simcha Kuritzky!

I would like to extend a welcome to Patti Finner who has moved to the Baltimore area from the frozen tundra of Iola, Wisconsin. I have never met a person more dedicated to the hobby. Patti has a wealth of experience working in numismatics, notably with the ANA. The Maryland coin clubs will be well served by Patti's increased presence in Maryland.

Finally, I hope you will all join me in wishing MSNA Vice President Scott Barman success in his quest to become an ANA Governor. Scott is very active in numismatics. He is an author as well as creator and webmaster of the MSNA website —MdStateNumisAssn.org.

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P·N·G



Dick Doty Speaks on Italian Coining Technology in June



The fifth speaker in the Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA) annual Distinguished Lecturer Series will be Richard Doty, Senior Curator of Numismatics at the Smithsonian Institution. Dick is a dedicated numismatic researcher having published several books and about 300 articles.

Dick started collecting when he was eight years old after encountering coins brought home by servicemen returning from Japan following the Second World War. Dick taught political science at the university level, but left academia in 1974 for a curatorial position at the American Numismatic Society. His duties at the ANS included caring for the collection, conserving, arranging exhibits, working with other scholars on material in the collection, and handling inquiries. In 1986, he came to the Smithsonian. During his time as a numismatic researcher, Dick made major contributions in a number of areas. He worked on Eighteenth Century coining technology, especially as practiced in Great Britain. Dick also worked extensively on Conder tokens, produced and circulated in Britain during Napoleonic times due to a severe coin shortage. He was head of the Conder Token Society and has published a number of articles on them. Dick also worked on obsolete American banknotes, especially those issued during the Civil War, using the Smithsonian's excellent collection. Dick also worked on Latin American coinage before 1900, particularly Mexican coinage during the Republic under Diaz. Dick majored in Mexican history at university.

Dick has a new book (published by Whitman) *Pictures from a Distant Country*, which discusses what images on banknotes meant to people at the time they were issued. For example, notes from southern states often served as propaganda, depicting African-Americans as happy slaves. As there were not many other sources of images in everyday life, banknotes images were an important source of information or disinformation.

On a trip to Italy, Dick came across some early modern coining machinery in a museum. He then thoroughly studied the development of coining technology in Italy, and the subject of his talk will be the coining process in Baroque and early modern Italy. The title is *Italian Coinage: Innovation and Tradition*. He will present it during the Whitman Coin Expo on Friday, June 22 at 2 PM in room 301 at the in Baltimore Convention Center.



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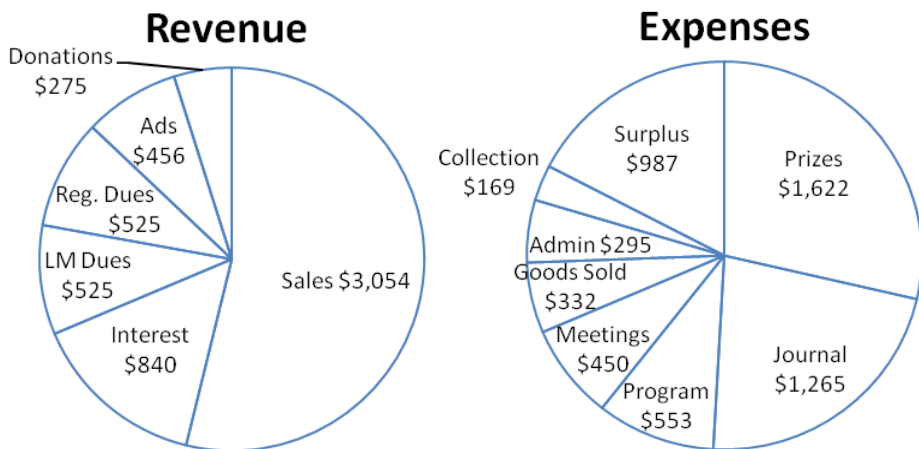


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Treasury Notes by Simcha Kuritzky, Treasurer and Editor

Below are two pie charts that show our results for fiscal year 2012 (ended November 30). We anticipate earning less interest in 2013.



Each circle represents the same number of dollars; because we had more revenue than expense, the difference is shown as a surplus near the top of the expenses pie chart. The biggest change from last year was in interest; we took advantage of special offers for our checking account and also opened our own credit card which earned a \$250 bonus. We also found a less expensive printer for the journal. The largest impact of using accrual versus cash basis of accounting is on life memberships--revenues earned for life membership are from payments received years ago, so regular dues and life membership dues are shown separately. Sales are primarily of raffle tickets, but also some souvenir sheets, medals, and our trip to the ANA in Philadelphia (the costs for the latter are all reported under Goods Sold). Prize expense includes raffle and exhibit, while door prizes are included under meetings. Program includes the Distinguished Lecturer honorarium, even though the honoree donated it back for our YN Fund (the YN Fund revenue is not included on these charts). Expenses associated with the John Henry collection include the safe deposit box rental and insurance. The raffle prizes were a ¼ oz. proof American eagle, Indian Head quarter eagle, Mexico gold 2½ pesos, and silver proof eagle. The seller still received a Mexico gold 2 pesos. Exhibit prizes are 1/10 oz. platinum eagle, 1/10 oz. gold eagle, and 1/20 oz. gold Australian rabbit year coin. The prizes this year will be similar.

FELINE SPECIES NUMISMATIC TYPE SET

Part One of Two

By Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

Humans have always been fascinated by animals, particularly felines. Their grace, strength, and prowess in battle have earned them our respect. Before the invention of tools, large cats were almost invulnerable; and even with knives and spears, the killing of a leopard, lion, or tiger was very dangerous. Tribal and national leaders would wear the skins of these animals and use them as their symbols. It is only natural that felines are found on coins and other numismatic items from the earliest times.

This article describes one example of each feline species known to be portrayed on a numismatic item, arranged by genetic classification. Since cats are all closely related, it is difficult to decide what is a species versus a variant or subspecies. The taxonomy used here recognizes 39 living species plus one manmade hybrid. Of these 40 types, 24 have been portrayed on coins and two only on medals. Also included are three extinct species on coins. Ancient and medieval coins only portray the lion, leopard and tiger. This article focuses instead on modern pieces, with only one coin from before 1970. Despite these restrictions, there is an amazing variety of forms, from base-metal circulating coins to non-circulating legal tender (NCLT) to precious metal bullion, small pieces to mega-coins, and coins that are bi-metallic, non-round, colored, or have embedded items.

History

Mammals evolved as small fur-bearing, lactating animals 200 million years ago when dinosaurs ruled the earth. After the dinosaurs were wiped out, possibly by climate change from a major meteor strike 65 million years ago, mammals filled in the vacuum. It was not long before some mammals began to specialize in predation, a role that had previously been filled by reptiles. Unlike reptiles, mammals developed specialized teeth. The term "carnivore" today refers to mammals with scissor-like back teeth and four large canines up front, regardless of what they eat. Miacids evolved 60 million years ago and were the first true carnivores. They had retractable claws similar to modern cats, lived in

trees, and were small like civets. By 40 million years ago, the offspring of the Miacids had diverged into the two main groups of carnivores alive today: dog-like (e.g., wolf, bear, fox) and cat-like (e.g., civet, raccoon, hyena). The first true felines evolved over 40 million years ago. Naturalists categorize felines as *Metazoa Chordata Vertebrata Mammalia Carnivora Feliformia Felidae*; and the last name, *Felidae*, is their family name. There are two subfamilies described here: *Machairodontinae*, consisting of extinct sabre-toothed cats, and *Felinae*, divided into eight clades, and are often split into large cats or *panthera* and small cats or *felis*. One other family, *Nimravidae*, is also included because when the coin was issued, this species was thought to be a cat ancestor.

Felines are generally solitary, independent animals. They have powerful legs for pouncing, streamlined bodies and often long tails for balancing, and hooked claws for climbing trees. Their coloring commonly includes stripes or spots for camouflage. Felines have gone from one of the most successful predators to almost universal endangered species status in the last couple of centuries, all due to expanding human development and hunting. This has encouraged many countries in recent years to issue special coins publicizing wild cat species and to help raise funds for their protection.

1. Extinct Species

Dinictis or False Sabretooth (*Dinictis felina*)

on NCLT silver crown Isle of Man 1 crown 1997 KM777



Paleontologists had considered the first true cat to be *Dinictis*. They had stabbing canine teeth and evolved about 40 million years ago. Later evidence showed them to be an example of parallel evolution, having many feline qualities but not an ancestor of modern cats. Both Miacids and *Dinictis* are shown on this 28.28g sterling silver 38.6mm crown of the Isle of Man.

Issued in 1997 as part of a set that commemorated the history of the house cat, this coin shows a Miacid standing over a *Dinictis* skeleton, which is over a modern Manx cat. The different species are probably to scale; early carnivores were small.

Scimitar Cat (*Homotherium serum*)

on platinum bullion coin Canada \$300 2008 KM831



Although prehistoric, the scimitar cat existed at the same time as all modern cats except the house cat, as it became extinct only twelve millennia ago. They are the earliest true cat to be commemorated on a coin or medal, having evolved about fifteen million years ago. The scimitar cat is named for its four-inch upper canine teeth. These were probably used to cut

through thick hides of the ancient herbivore giants and also to cut the prey up in pieces for transport home to their young. Homotherium had long limbs which meant they were fast runners. This Canadian coin is the only one to portray a scimitar cat. Just 200 were minted, all dated 2008 and in proof. It is the second of a series of 30mm one ounce platinum coins that portray extinct species whose remains have been found in Canada (the first coin honored the woolly mammoth, the main prey of the scimitar cat).

Sabre-Toothed Cat or Tiger (*Smilodon fatalis*)

on NCLT silver crown Gibraltar 1 crown 1994 KM239a



Sabre-toothed cats evolved two million years ago to tackle large herbivores that lived on the plains of North America. They were actually the fourth type of sabre-tooth animal, evolving after creodonts, marsupials, and paleo-felids. Sabre-toothed cats had thick, powerful front paws to tackle prey and a stubby tail, which meant they rarely climbed. Smilodon most likely used the

serrated edges on the backside of their seven-inch sabres to cut open the throat or belly of their prey. The sabre teeth would have broken if they tried to pierce bone (whereas modern cats bite through the spine of their prey). Sabre-toothed cats went extinct about 7,000 years ago after their large prey, including giant ground sloths, died off. Many smilodon skeletons were found at La Brea tar pits in Los Angeles and one species was declared the state fossil. The only coin to portray a real smilodon is this 1994 Gibraltar crown, part of a four coin animal set. This coin is 38.6mm, sterling silver weighing 28.28 grams. The other coins in the set

were a copper-nickel coin the same diameter as this silver coin, a small gold one-fifth ounce, and smaller platinum one-fifth ounce. These were part of a larger series of coins issued in 1993-1996 by a number of countries that portrayed extinct or endangered animals with the English legend Preserve Planet Earth. Gibraltar also issued a crown set in 1996 commemorating the Flinstone cartoon series and portraying their pet sabre-toothed cat.

2. Leopardus Clade

Andean Mountain Cat (*Oreailurus jacobita*)

on private mint silver bullion round Royal Silver Mint 2010 1 ounce



The Andean mountain cat is the oldest surviving species of the Leopardus clade which evolved five million years ago and consists of all small American cats. These rare, pale gray, long-haired cats with irregular brown stripes have a small range: the high central Andes (above 10,000') which spans southern Peru, western Bolivia, and northern Chile and

Argentina. They grow to 2' in length and 9 pounds in weight. The Royal Silver Mint of Bolivia started refining .99999 fine silver using an eco-friendly process in 2010. Each year, their medals portray a different endangered species and the mintage is limited to 10,000. The first medal honored the Andean mountain cat, and part of the price of these medals is donated to the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation.

Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) on NCLT gold Conservation Collection coin Colombia 15,000 Pesos 1978 KM266



The ocelot ranges from southern U.S. to the Amazon. It grows up to 4' in length and 35 pounds in weight, has a spotted coat, and lives in forests. The ocelot is represented on a .900 fine 33.4 gram 34mm gold Colombian coin. It was issued by the British Royal Mint in London as part of the Conservation Coin Collection, whose proceeds benefitted the World Wildlife

Fund and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. This coin's very small mintage (490 circulation finish, 180 proof) makes it

hard to obtain. The obverse side commemorates the centennial of the death of Thomas Cipriano de Mosquera, President of New Grenada (1845-49) and both dictator and democratically-elected President of the Republic of Colombia (1861-67). The ocelot also appears on NCLT coins from Belize and Cuba.

Margay (*Leopardus weidii*) on NCLT gold coin
Belize \$100 1983 KM73



The margay lives from Texas down to northern Argentina. It is specially designed for tree dwelling, and can actually twist its feet around so that it can run down a tree (all cats can run up trees, except for adult cheetahs). Margays are small (up to 4' and 20 pounds) spotted cats, similar to their cousin, the ocelot. Only Belize has issued a coin portraying the margay. This 26mm 6.2 gram gold \$100 coin was issued for collectors by the Franklin Mint in Philadelphia and is difficult to obtain due to its small mintage and popularity (494 in proof, 20 in circulation finish).

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Pampas Cat (*Onci felis colocolo*)

on circulating base-metal coin Argentina 5c 1985 KM97.1



The pampas cat is a South American wild cat with a long, grayish coat. It grows to 2' in length (including the tail) and lives in wooded areas such as the humid pampas of Argentina. Recently, taxonomists have proposed splitting the pampas cat into three separate species: Chilean, Argentine, and Pantanal. This cat is portrayed here on a 23mm, 5 gram brass Argentine 5 centavos. As inflation eroded the value of Argentine money, the government introduced new monetary systems. This coin is part of Argentina's fourth coinage which lasted until 1992. Almost 37 million 5 centavos were minted in 1985 on thick flans (KM97.1), and a total of 146 million were issued 1986-1988 on thin flans (KM97.2). It is the only coin type to portray the pampas cat.

Oncilla, Tiger Cat, and Little Spotted Cat (*Leopardus tigrinus*)

on NCLT silver crown Nicaragua 10,000 cordobas 1990 KM71



The oncilla is one of the smallest Western Hemisphere cats at 5 pounds, and has a spotted coat like its ocelot cousin. The tiger cat lives from Costa Rica down to northern Argentina. This coin identifies the cat only as tigrillo ("little tiger"), which is Spanish for any small wild cat, although some taxonomists note that tigrilla is Spanish for oncilla. Krause identifies the cat as an ocelot, however, the large eyes make it look like an oncilla. Nicaragua issued this coin as their first wildlife commemorative in 1990. It is 26 grams of pure silver and 38mm. Five thousand were minted only in proof. It is the only oncilla coin.

3. Felis Clade**Pallas's Cat** (*Otocolobus manul*)

on NCLT silver crown Turkmenistan 500 manat 1996 KM9

About ten million years ago, the Felis or small wildcat clade evolved. The earliest member was Pallas's cat (named for 18th Century German naturalist Peter Pallas), which today lives on the Asian steppes and

desert. Their long, dense fur insulates them from the cold and sports muted stripes. Pallas's cats are unique among cats in that their pupils are circular rather than slits. Turkmenistan issued this 500 manat crown in 1996 as part of a six coin wildlife commemorative set, followed by a similar set in 1999. The sterling silver 38.6mm crown weighs 28.28 grams. Only 5,000 were minted and only in proof. It is the only coin that portrays Pallas's cat.



Sand Cat (*Felis margarita*)

on bimetallic fantasy Palestine 2 dinar 2010 (AH1431)



Sand cats developed around two million years ago. They are both widespread (from the Sahara to Turkmenistan) and elusive, spending the day hiding in burrows and hunting only at night. They have large ears and their paws have extra fur on their pads to insulate them from hot sand. They are smaller (3-7 lbs.) than a house cat. Israel is currently breeding sand cats in

hopes of reintroducing them to the wild. This fantasy portrays two sand cats and is part of a series of proposed coins for autonomous regions in the Middle East created by coin dealer Joseph Lang. His Kurdistan pieces are already listed in Unusual World Coins and likely soon to be joined by his Darfur and Palestine coin patterns. Only 12,000 of this 8.8 gram, 27mm bronze outer ring with copper-nickel plug fantasy were minted. The denomination is based on Jordan's currency, despite the fact that the Palestine Authority uses the new Israel shekel and Jordan has never issued a two dinar coin. The inscription above the lower sand cat is نموذج نمودھج (pattern).

European (Scottish) Wildcat (*Felis sylvestris grampia*)

on NCLT silver crown Isle of Man 1 crown 1997 KM778

Throughout the world there are several species of wild cats. They are a bit larger, but otherwise almost identical to various breeds of house cats, leading to speculation as to which wild species was the source of the house cat. The European wild cat once roamed the forests of Europe

(even Britain) into western Asia, but human encroachment has severely limited their range. The largest groups today are in Scotland (subspecies *grampia*), northern Europe (*sylvestris*), and the Caucasus (*Caucasica*). *Grampia* is honored on this 38.5mm sterling silver coin weighing 28.28 grams. It is one of a set of History of the Cat commemoratives issued that year, each in proof only with a mintage of 10,000. Armenia, Hungary, and Moldova have also issued silver commemoratives of European wildcats.



African Wildcat (*Felis sylvestris lybicus*)

on NCLT gold coin Egypt £100 1989 (AH1409) KM656



The African wildcat is sleeker than their European cousins and its coat is a combination of brown and gray stripes. The Egyptians are credited with breeding the first house cats from the African wildcat around 4,000 years ago. Deities were drawn in the form of animals or with human torsos and animal heads. Bastet, the goddess who attended the sun god Ra, is often shown as a cat, and the earliest images of her predate house cats. The statue on this Egyptian gold £100 of 1989 probably represents Bastet, and is either a house cat or, more likely, the local wild cat which was larger. This 32mm coin is made from .900 fine gold and weighs 17 grams. It was only made in proof and 7,500 were minted. Egypt also issued silver and gold Bastet commemoratives in 1994.

House Cat (*Felis catus*)

on NCLT silver mega-coin with embedded gold bullion coins
Isle of Man 10 crowns 1997 KM775 (photo on cover)

House cats are the only feline species created by humans. They are small (5-25 pounds) and live all over the world. Unlike domestic animals like dogs and cattle, cats chose to live among humans. When agriculture developed several millennia ago, humans began storing grain, which attracted rats and mice, which in turn attracted cats, many of whom were kept as pets. In ancient Egypt, the granaries were controlled

by the priesthood and cats were deified. It is believed that the house cat was exported to India and China around three millennia ago, and brought to Europe by the Romans two millennia ago. Starting in 1988, the Isle of Man has capitalized on the popularity of house cats with a non-circulating series of cat coins, minted as copper-nickel, one ounce silver, and as 1/25, 1/10, 1/5, 1/2 and 1 ounce gold and platinum bullion crowns. Each year, a new breed is featured. In the tenth year, the Pobjoy Mint struck this special 75mm commemorative ten crown coin. The piece is made of ten Troy ounces of sterling silver and has embedded in it one example each of the ten different 1/25 ounce gold crowns that had been struck up to that time. Mintage was limited to 1,997 coins in honor of the year of issue. In the center is same Manx cat portrait used on the original coin of 1988. The Manx cat has no tail and is unique to the Isle of Man. Next year's breed was the Persian or Angora cat, which has long fur to protect it from the mountain winters. The 1990 coin portrays a New York alley cat, which is actually a mixture of breeds generally referred to as a domestic short hair. The 1991 coin features a Norwegian forest cat, one of the largest breeds, with thick, waterproof fur. In 1992, the Siamese cat was featured (also the only cat to be honored with 5 and 10 ounce silver crowns). Siamese have distinctive points of color on the face, ears, and tip of their paws and tail. The 1993 coin shows the Maine coon cat, which was bred as a mouser and ratter and also has long, waterproof fur. The next year's coins honored the Japanese bobtail, a slender breed unique to Japan. In 1995, it was the Turkish van's turn. These relatives of the all-white Angora have long fur that includes brown ear and tail points. The 1996 coin portrays the Burmese, also called Malayans, a breed with short, sleek fur. The last embedded coin honors the longhair smoke, or Persian with long fur and a broad face with a short nose. The Pobjoy Mint has recently added silver and copper-nickel crowns with colorized cats. All these coins are sold to collectors and for use in jewelry. *To be Continued*



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Is This the Shortest Cent Collection Ever?

By Mark Benvenuto, MSNA #R-825

Excitement over one set or another of our nation's coins will come and go, but there are some series and specific coins that are always going to be collector coins. Mercury dimes fit into this category, as do Buffalo nickels, or even the many different large cents. So it may come as a surprise that the oft-ignored cents right at the transition from the large cents down to the size we still use today are a few of the others that might qualify. But look at what this tiny span of years has to offer.

The 1857 Flying Eagle Cent

In what has become an established tradition, the prices and the mintage of the 1856 small-sized Flying Eagle cents are published in just about every standard reference and price guide of United States coins. Never mind that "about" 2,500 of these coins made as trial pieces to be examined by Congressmen and other noteworthy people and they were not made for circulation. The 1856 Flying Eagle cents always make the lists and they command huge prices today.

What about the 1857 Flying Eagle cent? This is where the series really begins. There were 17,450,000 of James Longacre's flying eagle design produced in Philadelphia that year – and that makes them pretty common today. If you would like to hunt down one of these small, flying national birds for your very own, you need at least \$50 for a relatively worn piece. But in what might be a bit of a surprise, you could land one in or close to mint state for about \$400. That's not too bad for a very attractive specimen of one of our shortest lived coinage designs.

Now, not too many of us enjoy collecting a series that is so short that you don't seem to have anything to look at. So, out of the desire to make a fuller collection, why not add an 1857 large cent? This was the last gasp for the large cents, and although the mintage of 333,456 doesn't seem high when compared to the tens of millions of any coin produced today, it is generally enough that collectors don't have to pay too dearly for one. So, this can bring our grand total up to two.

The 1858 Flying Eagle Cent

While both 1856 and 1857 qualify as transitional years for the cent, the 1858 is the first stand-alone year in which there were naught but small one-cent coins issued in the U.S. There are both a large letters and small

letters varieties here, but since the overall total is 24.6 million, both varieties sell at about the same cost in all grades. There is also an 1858-over-7 in the catalog, but even this over-date isn't too expensive, unless you want it in mint state condition. So, the 1858 brings our small cent collection up to two – or three, with the large cent.



Images courtesy of coincommunity.com and PCGSCoinFacts.com

The 1859 Indian Head Cent

Now, it may seem like we are just sliding this one in on what is an amazingly short list of two or three, but there's a reason. Think about it for a moment: even though the collectible Flying Eagle cents span only two years, the 1859 Indian head cent is actually a one-year coin. In 1860, an entirely different wreath and reverse came out on these new cents, leaving the plain wreath without a shield to reign on the reverse for a single year – 1859. As with the two Flying Eagle cents, there were a hoard of 1859 Indian head cents minted. With 36.4 million of them on the original Mint official tally, it's fair to say that any collector who wants one today probably has access to plenty, especially if he or she haunts some of the larger shows. Worn but serviceable specimens come in at only about \$20. An example in a more respectable XF-40 might cost about \$100. But even a piece that sneaks into the low end of mint state still only costs about \$250. Once again, that's really not much if you stop and ponder how much history there is in this single coin, as the nation changed from large to small one-cent pieces.

Even though we list only three dates, there are four coins that you could easily group into one of the shortest date-run collections of cents. None are the stuff of dealer junk boxes or bargain bins, even in low grades. But none of them are so expensive as to be unavailable, even in high. Why not take a detailed look yourself at this short run of what might be the most collectible of U.S. coins?

Local News



The **Washington Numismatic Society** held its semi-annual pot-luck dinner on December 18, and in January swore in its new officers (pictured above, left to right are President Emeritus Frank Palumbo, Treasurer Richard Foley, President Simcha Kuritzky, Secretary and Editor Walter Wilcox, and Vice President Martin Solano) and revised its constitution. **Paul Belschner** spoke on U.S. MPC and military base gaming tokens in February.



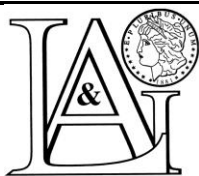
Montgomery County Coin Club held their annual donated auction in December and sent a check for \$800 to the Silver Spring Boys' and Girls' Clubs. In January, they swore in the new board (pictured above, left to right are Treasurer Simcha Kuritzky, Secretary Jack Schadeegg, Tom Betsock, Tom Hall, President Scott Barman, Vice President Ken Swab, and giving the oath is former President Don McKee) and watched *Baltimore Shinplasters 1837-41*, a DVD of a talk given by former

MSNA President **Bill Stratemeyer** at the 2008 ANA World's Fair of Money in Baltimore. This DVD can be purchased from the ANA or borrowed from MSNA. In February, **Aaron Cohen** spoke on how one collected coins in the Soviet Union, and what happened when you left the country. On March 12, **Mike Markowitz**, the President of the Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington DC, will give an introduction to collecting ancient coins. **Chris Jorritson** will speak on Geocaching and their medals on April 9.

At the **Catonsville Coin Club**, Andy Philip presented a video/web program about numismatic resources available on the internet at the January 2013 meeting. **Bryce Doxzon** presented a talk on presidential inaugural medals at the February meeting. The club's April meeting will be a bourse night (tables open only to members).

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
first				Baltimore
second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West Maryland	Belmar, Catonsville, Middle River	
third	Colonial (some- times), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc.		Baltimore
fourth		Bowie	Middle River	MSNA Board



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What's Your Sign?

Part Seventeen: Cracker Jack Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

Last time I described some medals that were given as prizes in gumball machines, and this time I cover medals that were prizes in Cracker Jack boxes. I never found anything that interesting with that candy, but one seller had these on eBay. I have photos of all but the Capricorn. The colors I have seen are red, yellow, green, cyan (baby blue), blue, off white, gray, and black. According to www.crackerjackcollectors.com, These were produced by the National Organ Supply Company from 1949 to 1959 from dense polystyrene, along with various small plastic animal or people charms. This set of prizes are catalog number 1182 in the Cracker Jack catalog. The reverse inscriptions are:

Sign		Dates
ARIES	RAM	MAR. 21-APR. 19
TAURUS	BULL	APR. 20-MAY 20
GEMINI	TWINS	MAY 21-JUNE 21
CANCER	CRAB	JUNE 22-JULY 22
LEO	LION	JULY 23-AUG. 22
VIRGO	VIRGIN	AUG. 23-SEPT. 22
LIBRA	BALANCE	SEPT. 23-OCT. 23
SCORPIO	SCORPION	OCT. 24- NOV. 21
SAGITTARIUS	ARCHER	NOV. 22-DEC. 21
CAPRICORN	GOAT	DEC. 22-JAN. 19
AQUARIUS	WATER BEARER	JAN. 20-FEB. 18
PISCES	FISHES	FEB. 19-MAR. 20

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Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

10 Mar. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

14-17 Mar. – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA will sponsor an exhibit competition.*

14 April – Westminster Fire Hall Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

28 April–Associated Coin Clubs, Middle River Recreation Center, Compass Road and Martin Blvd., 10-3.

2 June–Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4. 410-256-1832 evening.

20-23 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA Distinguished Speakers Series Lecture on Friday.*

30 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

15 Sept. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

22 Sept. – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4. 410-256-1832 evening.

5 Oct. –Associated Coin Clubs, Middle River Recreation Center, Compass Road and Martin Blvd., 10-3.

6 Oct. – Westminster Fire Hall Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

26-27 Oct. – CEO Coins, Currency & Treasurers Ocean City Show, Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City, MD; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4.

8-11 Nov. – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 W. Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

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